

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

Emergency Certificate of Need

TO: Michael A. Franklin, FACHE
President/CEO
Atlantic General Hospital
9733 Healthway Drive
Berlin, Maryland 21811

January 4, 2021
Date

RE: Atlantic General Hospital
Establishment of Up To 16 Additional
Inpatient Beds at Berlin Nursing and
Rehabilitation Center

EM-H21-23-040
Docket No.

DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY PROJECT

This Emergency Certificate of Need (Emergency CON) authorizes Atlantic General Hospital to establish additional inpatient bed capacity consisting of up to 16 semi-private medical/surgical/ gynecological/addictions (M/S/G/A) beds for low acuity patients to be located in a first floor unit of Berlin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (Berlin N&R), 9715 Healthway Drive, Berlin (Worcester County) (the Site), which is adjacent to Atlantic General Hospital. The total capital costs of the project are estimated to be \$35,000, with operating costs including rental costs for the Site and equipment bringing the total costs to an estimated \$166,320. This is the same project that was approved by the Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission (Commission) in an Emergency CON (Docket No. EM-H20-23-025) that issued on April 14, 2020 and was confirmed by the Commission on May 21, 2020. Although the hospital completed some facility modifications at the Site, the beds were not needed by Atlantic General Hospital, which subsequently relinquished the April 14, 2020 Emergency CON. Berlin N&R has been granted temporary delicensure of its eight single occupancy CCF beds so that the hospital can again lease the space for 16 temporary M/S/G/A beds. The hospital anticipates that the additional inpatient beds will be brought online by January 8, 2021.

ORDER

Upon consideration of the request of Atlantic General Hospital, suitably detailed information provided by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) and others, and consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, Ben Steffen, Executive Director, determined that the lack of sufficient inpatient bed capacity at Maryland general hospitals resulting from COVID-19 presents a hazard to patients and/or employees, as provided in COMAR 10.24.01.20A.

Therefore, it is, on January 4, 2021, ordered by the Executive Director that an Emergency Certificate of Need issue for the project. It is further ordered that the requirement in COMAR 10.24.01.20C that Atlantic General Hospital file an application for Certificate of Need for the inpatient beds established in this Emergency Certificate of Need is suspended by the Executive

Director pursuant to COMAR 10.24.01.10A(2) until at least 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. on March 5, 2020.

Approvals by Maryland Department of Health

This Emergency Certificate of Need does not constitute a license or replace any approvals for other aspects of the project that are required by the OHCQ or other divisions of the Maryland Department of Health to operate inpatient bed capacity at the Site.

Duration of Emergency CON; Further Action

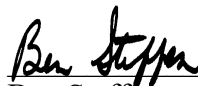
This Emergency Certificate of Need will be considered for confirmation by the Maryland Health Care Commission at its meeting on January 21, 2021, or on another date of which you will be notified. This Emergency Certificate of Need initially remains in effect for a maximum of 165 days, as provided in COMAR 10.24.01.20C, or until 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. on March 5, 2020. The Emergency CON may be extended beyond that date for good cause shown.

CONDITION OF EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE OF NEED

Because it is important that the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Office of Health Care Quality know when the inpatient beds approved in this Emergency Certificate of Need are available for patients, it is further

ORDERED that Atlantic General Hospital shall advise MHCC staff and OHCQ staff when the inpatient beds become operational at the Site, disclosing: (1) the number of beds in this Emergency CON that become available for patients; and (2) the date the beds become available. The hospital shall: notify MHCC staff by sending an email with this information to ruby.potter@maryland.gov; and notify OHCQ staff of this temporary increase in its licensed bed capacity by completing OHCQ's Application for Temporary Adjustment of Hospital Beds, which is located at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c7e6598943c84dd2ba9e39859a9f3383>.

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION



Ben Steffen
Executive Director

cc: Dennis Schrader, Acting Secretary of Health
Renee Webster, Deputy Director, Federal Programs, Office of Health Care Quality
Katie Wunderlich, Executive Director, HSCRC
Rebecca Jones, RN, BSN, Health Officer, Worcester County